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Letters from Hazel Todd (1932) (Part 1)

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Kuling, Kiangsi, China. Aug 17, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

It seems impossible that another summer is so nearly over. Next week should be my last up here this year. In fact I should spend one day of it on my way back to where some of the others of our station are spending the summer. They wrote and said they feel washed out because it is so hot there. Margaret wrote and asked last week about her sister coming up here for the rest of the summer. If I had a younger sister come to China I might not be down at Shanghai to meet her as Margaret was. But I would try to move a mountain if necessary to see to it that she should be away from the heat of the Yangtze valley during the first summer. I know Margaret felt they could not manage both. She is more capable than most of us so perhaps I forget even she can make mistakes. One morning she was making some kind of a corn starch pudding. The recipe said it should be cooked a certain length of time. But latter Margaret came to me saying that there is something wrong with the recipe because it was lumping so badly. All the trouble was that she had not observed before how that kind of pudding cooks I found out when I went to investigate. But if talking would have accomplished anything those three would have been here this summer instead of nearly melting.

This week has been full of meetings. I have been attending about three a day out of a possible four or five. I could be at one right now. But being so many are in Chinese they tire one out more than if they were in English. It is partly for that reason I have staid in this evening to write this letter.

There are always so many sales of work at these

summer resorts. Knitted things done at blind schools, all kinds of fancy work, hand paintings, rag dolls and toys and even hemp string is among the things. I may yet buy something from the blind girls school if they are not sold out. By the way their hand knitted things are very inexpensive. If any of you should want any pull over sweaters or gloves I can order them. The sweaters are from a dollar up. I bought a lunch set although not at one of these sales a few days ago. It is of heavy Irish linen the cloth being 54" x 54" and there are six napkins all beautifully hand embroidered. At the present rate of exchange the set cost about \$1.40. The peddlers look so ~~funny~~ and say something about how we used to buy things. But postage and duty have not always been so high. By the way this year if you should send me anything to wear see that it is worn first and say so but better still ^{rather} only send cheap things from ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~store~~ ^{the} ~~worths~~ ^{worths}. If you send anything at all please remember this. Of course one never has to pay duty on books.

One reason I am in a hurry about going back to our station is because of the compound. Our teacher only promised to try to do this until the first of September. Even with the best he could do soldiers did stay in the church one night. They also broke into this house. I guess they did not take anything though. I am in a hurry to find out. My plan still is to go back ahead of the others and find out how things are. There is to be a provincial conference of our mission the middle of next month. Seeing there are only two of us senior missionaries in the province aside from our newly appointed superintendent and his wife I suppose it is my duty to attend. I feel it

takes my number of years in China to get any kind of understanding of the work. For my own part it would seem better when most of the workers are so new for the superintendent to become acquainted with the work first. As it is even one like myself is only beginning to know the work in the station in which I work and knowing nothing about other stations in the district my opinion is worth very little. Of course we can decide a lot. But when it comes to carrying those things into effect it seems to me in the long run we might as well stay at home. At our station I hear they are unwilling to send anything in to the central fund this year. And if I tell the younger workers they will make some sarcastic remarks that would make bad matters worse. In fact if they had kept their fingers out of the pie things might not be so bad as they are. At this conference most likely they will decide our church should give more all the while blissfully ignorant that perhaps they will not send in anything. Some of the problems of a senior missionary in a station are almost enough to turn one's hair gray.

Aug 22 We certainly have attended a lot of meetings this summer. Many were very good. This year the music has been a feature. It is the first time I have heard them have quartets and solos. It has taken until now for the most advanced Christian Chinese to realize the value of these things. It will take a few perhaps many years for the rank and file of the leaders to realize the value of it. But for the churches to care for music as we do it seems like it would take a century. The quartets and solos were good. I think all of them sang translations of English songs and hymns such as "Hallelujahs for

the Cross," "He Died of a Broken Heart" and "Jesus is a Friend of Mine." They nearly always explain beforehand what they are singing about for the tone of words changes their meaning completely. And it is so easy to throw their minds out of gear. We understand in spite of tones. But they are not used to using their brains as a rule.

In the few days that remain up here there is a lot of letters that should be written as well as packing. I must close this letter to go and see the dentist.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Shucheng, Anhwei, China, Sept 4, 1932

Dear Mother:-

You see it has been possible to return here. For so early in the fall we really had a good trip back. The morning I left Kuling it was raining and nearly everyone urged me to have a chair. Eva Knight and one of the others walked part way down the hill with me. Perhaps I should say the other is a ~~dispoz~~ lady who says she is eighteenth in the family. She does not tell it though at first that after the thirteenth is the second mother. Anyway I think she is quite a capable woman reading and talking in at least four languages. That very evening we reached Anking. Doris Hinckley and Margaret and Ruth Elliott came down to meet me with a servant. The servant was most necessary for one steps out of the steamer on to a row boat. And the baggage which included steamer trunk, suit case, bedding and a folding organ which belongs to some one else had to be looked after.

One of the three days spent in Anking was Sunday. So in the other two days I repacked my things there. I only brought with me things to use the next three weeks or so until the others can return. The other things are supposed to come by barrow latter.

We started from Anking on Tuesday. It rained a little during the forenoon. We reached an inn about four in the afternoon in a pouring rain. But we could not stay there as the place was full up with soldiers. So we had to go on another mile. Where we did stay that night and the following for it rained all the next day was not much of a place. My room there was the best they had about 6" x 9" and walls, thatched roof that leaked, no door and a window only a foot square. That day I wrote two letters, studied some for meetings worked a cross word puzzle, mended a pair of stockings and tried to do some preaching. At least that started one of the Christians along with us going. The other two days we got

on with our journey alight. I was much interested in the wild flowers along the way. I counted about twenty-three kinds in the three days of our trip. Many I had never seen before. Of course it was my first time through those parts this time of year. The butterflies too were gorgeous. The last morning we had to start very early in order to get through in a day. With the aid of my lantern and flash light we started at least three quarters of an hour before sun rise. It had also taken ~~us~~ that long from the time I got up until we started. But at least ten or fifteen minutes of the time was spent fixing the loads after I was packed up. You see both bed and bedding had to be folded up and put in their place. The men ~~who~~ carry loads wonder how I can fold up my bed so quick after they come to do it. If I could have a dollar for every time I have folded and unfolded a camp bed there would be a number of them. But of course a good part of a missionaries life consists in packing and unpacking things. The last day I walked a good ten miles perhaps fifteen then we did not reach here until nearly six. The fires were so bad the only thing I ate on the road besides a few sandwiches was one bowl of rice gruel. Of course we did not have time to eat before we started. For supper that evening I had bread and butter and tomatoes. The cook was ^{too} tired to fix anything. Of course the house was dirty after our being away over two months. And the soldiers having been in it made it no better.

So far in looking through things all that I am sure is gone ~~are~~ some spices and extracts. The mustard tin had been left open so that was molded. Of course I will not be sure about things until the other two return. Our teacher came in and kept his eye on things as much as possible while they were here. He probably did earn his pay and some besides looking out for the compound while ~~they~~ were away. Because I have had a little trouble with soldiers since I have asked him to stay

until the other two return. Because I want to get out some and one or the other of us should be here all the time.

Since coming back I have had an experience one very much dislikes. Last spring I threatened to dismiss the gardener if he did not keep the silly goat in back. And to make it more impressive I had told nearly every one on the compound to urge him to do it. Last spring they interceded for him saying the man did not understand. But this time I spent most of a night trying to think of a way out. As it was even the cook a relative of his said there was no way out you told him clearly in my hearing you would dismiss him if he did not do as he was told. In one respect dealing with Chinese servants is like looking after children one should not make too many threats but when once made one has to carry them out. The other servants have been watching their steps since that happened.

Sept 9. I have now been back a week and the house is not yet all cleaned. The upstairs windows we hope to get cleaned next week. Also the rest of the cleaning should be done by then. A few things we had washed and put away before we went. Before the others return I want to get some jam made. It is so strange the girls prefer jam made from melon to using the native apricots. One can buy jams of course. But you did not bring me up to such extravagance. The girls are very fond of pickles. But unless we can we can persuade the soldiers to leave our green tomatoes alone I do not know what to make them out of unless I use melon. We are having tomatoes and roasting ears from the garden. There are a few beets and some parsley also. We have enough milk for the baby and I from the goats. When the others return we must get rid of some of our kids.

(the foundation on her step)

Wick - chen or Pearl is not more than ten days over five months old. Twice today I have seen her sitting in her cradle with nothing to support her back. She can not sit herself up yet though. She seems to be teething too. We do employ a wet nurse for her but her milk is not enough. The way the exchange goes now we pay her less than a dollar a month and that divided among four of us is not excessive. Of course her clothes and other things make about another dollar a month. It does take a little time looking after some things for her. But I notice some of the people are watching how we do it and copying us. For instance they always use a razor and shave their little baby's head. This is really supposed to be done during the first month of the baby's life and before the mother goes out. Yesterday I saw a baby two months old whose head has never been shaved. The mother went on to say they had bought some toilet soap to wash the baby with every day. They think the fact that Pearl went through the summer without any boils or rash is wonderful. I might say we have more than one objection to a razor being used on a wee baby's head. Chief of them is that the Chinese have some disgusting diseases of the scalp that may end in baldness while childhood is not really past. There is one kind akin to ring worm that is almost impossible to cure before the hair is gone. The Chinese call it often by the same name as leprosy.

So far I have only been to the country twice. It is still rather warm. The people say I must not leave the place over night if I do not want it occupied by soldiers. So I have to wait to return of two of the others two weeks from now before going to the out-station. They wanted to attend a conference before they return.

I hear Mrs. Draffin does not want to come back to China. A vision that remains undiminished but increasing during the years is a gift from Him. And when one no longer "the strength of one's youth" to give without that one might not

care to stay on. Of course Mrs. Draffin has her three children in China that she would rather be with. She has one at home with her. But the years should mean an increase in wisdom and experience that if fully consecrated to Him while it may not be as spectacular as the strength of earlier years are an offering that came from him in should be for His use. Perhaps patience is even more costly and yet so necessary. I often think of the statement made by Elisha to Gehazi "Went not my heart after thee." When others turn after things rather the Lord our own hearts can feel it so much. I wonder how He feels about it. My heart is going out after some one of the Chinese this afternoon that I am afraid is turning back from the Lord's service.

But this letter must close. I know you do not forget to pray for me.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Shicheng, Anhwei, China. Sept 18, 1931

Dear Winifred:-

It has been fully two months since my last letter from home. I hope none have been lost on the way. But I suppose to it is a bother to write a lot of letters. Of course it looks like one like me does not have a lot to do. But seldom except in harvest time did Father ever have more men working for him and if my memory does not fail me they used to get on his nerves. You can figure it out there are the cook, gardener, gate-keeper and teacher and for a good while, several months there was a colporteur besides. In all there are usually about twenty people on the compound that means having the last word about calling a doctor if they are ill and after having something to say about treatment after he is called. Of course we have two women working for us too, the baby's nurse and the house woman. Of course there is the church that is much more important, the real job with over eighty members and quite a number interested besides. And then ^{one} must always think of the many villages around about. Really there is never a time that there is not plenty to do. Today the cook went to the out-station to take the Sunday services there. He went about daylight and will not be back in time to do much toward preparing dinner tomorrow. Our teacher took the Sunday service today. It is the first time I have heard him preach. He does very well. Of course the gate-keeper looks after the church building and Chinese guest rooms on the compound. He does not do much for us. But I must supervise his work.

Sept 22. This is the way my work gets done. Today among many other things it is the time to go to the country to take a women's meeting. There is a little girl on the compound

who seems to be at death's door. Even yet it seems as though if I had her fully in my charge it seems as though something could be done. But there is always an uncertain element in these things. When a person's time comes there is nothing one may do against it. One only wishes in the case of children that they knew more about what to do to prevent serious illness and more about what to do if they become ill. And then if they die they could get a right conception of it all. But now hard it is for the old superstitious ideas the accumulation of centuries to die. Unless the Lord intervenes in a special way if the child in question dies it will mean some anxious days for me looking after the mother. That seems in this place to be one of the duties of senior missionary to look after those who go off their minds or nearly so. The people here never show more clearly how near they are like children or need help more. They are so utterly tactless and keep making remarks to that person about their losing their minds. They know our way is best but how to go about it is another thing.

The other girls have not yet returned and will not be back here for almost a week. I do not know just why they are taking so long to come back. We have about finished cleaning the house. The woman has done a lot of it because just the washing, ironing and mending for me does not take much time. So she was washed the curtains, straw ticks and some other odds and ends that do not ^{need} washing often. She has also washed the windows. In most of the rooms that is not so bad as we have all casement windows with three panes in each. But we have Colonial style windows in the dining room and sitting room with more than a hundred panes in each room. It seems this was not in the original plan. But when the glass came from the coast a lot was broken so they

made that style of window because of the glass. That is alright so long as I do not have to wash them.

They tell me that our only convert at our only out-station has read through his New Testament twice. If you saw what poor eyes the man has and know that he learned to read since he first heard the gospel less than a year ago you would realize this means something. I am told he now wants to start reading the Old Testament. He witnesses and preaches continually and has had some remarkable answers to prayer. One time many months ago I started to try to explain to him some pictures illustrating Pilgrim's Progress. I thought he was not paying much attention. But I found out latter that he told some of the men that he had fought with the devil himself and it was just like those pictures showed it to be. We thank the Lord for the grace and spiritual conception he has been given and pray he may continue to stand.

We are going to have to make a change of buildings for our out-station as there are soldiers quartered next door. And while they are there no one but soldiers come. It is good to have them come. But we girls want especially to work among women. It never was a good location. It is too far out but as good as we can afford.

The meeting mentioned before in this letter. Perhaps the one most interested in my message today was one of the deacons. It was a women's meeting. But the deacon ill in bed heard through a partition also the door was open. It was on the furniture of the Tabernacle. To me it seemed very simple but they thought it was deep. By the way when you read the Bible through you no doubt know better than to skip parts about the Tabernacle. It has only been recently that I realized the inside

curtain was hung by four pillars not left to hang down over the boards. Also the outside covering of badger skin was for a covering not everyday use but when it rained, etc. So what the Israelites saw when looking at it was the covering of red. Also it is said to duplicate ~~the~~ ^{the Tabernacle} now would take a million dollars. Evidently people in those days were more willing to give. I like the Chinese names better for the Tabernacle (meeting place) and a number of other things than our names. Mercy seat gives little idea of a throne from which grace is given. Ark does not as in Chinese give the idea of a covenant. We know about these things if we look into them. But in Chinese it is there in the name. Studying the Bible in another language should give a better understanding of it. I hope you will have the chance to do it too.

Sept. 24. This letter must get off today. I heard yesterday that the English girl of our household will not be back at least not for several months. But Margaret Elliott will be back for another month and her sister with her. Eva Knight and I will be the only ones here after that. Eva only has to study a half year or so on the necessary language study so we ought to be able to keep up with the work fairly well. There is a lot to do here but we need proportionately more Chinese workers.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Hazel Todd,
China Inland Mission,
Shanghai, Anhwei, China.



Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Sept. 1937
32

Huchung, Anhwei, China. Oct 4, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

It occurs to me that a letter to you should be started to you tonight. I suppose you are celebrating the day in some way. Isabelle is not so apt to forget the special days as I am. Neither are the others such a frightful distance away. No doubt you are often glad that only one of us is missing on the days when birthdays and holidays come. Glad as one is to be here one does not forget. "Home Sweet Home" is a song none of us missionaries ^{never} sing. There are reasons for this. Our Lord and His cause must come first.

The other girls came back a week ago Sunday evening. It was one of my blunders that I sent the coolies after them too soon. It turned out alright because they managed to get it ready alright and they got here when I was needing their help so much. Our babies' nurse's little girl had died less than an hour before they came. The little girl was about seven years old and of course they do miss her dreadfully. On the whole I think having our baby to look after has been a help to the mother. She is so bright and happy most of the time. We are now offering the baby to her for her own. Old maids usually do not have any too great success in bringing up children and it is much worse yet when that child is of another race. Hieh-chen would be frightfully spoiled too by the Chinese Christians if we keep her. She is of the kind they can spoil. Even the cook's family when their grandchild of the same age is here pay more attention to Hieh-chen. Hieh-chen when spoken to pays attention and laughs and crows and their baby does not seem to notice anything. We were so afraid the babies' nurse would go almost out of head but after two or three days she seemed alright. We

569 did all we could to help her. One evening we had all the women on the compound to sew up a comforter for the baby and at the end gave them tea and pop corn. We used some you sent last year for seed so we have more than we had last year. The Chinese are very fond of it so I gave a few of them some for seed too.

We got rid of two kids this week. One of the other missionaries of the province wants them bad enough to send a man after them two hundred miles or more. I do not wonder the man who let us have his goats to keep while he is on furlough called me Jacob. We were to have all the kids and one old goat has had four kids. We are raising four kids for ourselves which we think is enough.

Oct. 10th Last week at deacon's meeting it decided to send two delegates to the Chinese conference of church leaders for those belonging to this mission of the province. I was so afraid they would send no one as rumours reach me sometimes of their wanting to be independent. They also decided to ask for the conference next time three years from now. I am very glad of this for one thing because this provincial conference has never been held here before.

The girls insisted that I should not open my birthday parcel until today. It was surely a wonderful parcel. The shoes fit just right. The dress and uniform too are the right size. The bath towel and wash cloth will be held in reserve at present for company. But one needs extra at times and I do not mean they will not be used. And even the safety pins will come in handy. It has been a nice birthday. The girls did some decorations around my plate this morning and put the box where one's plate should be.

Eva gave me a dresser scarf and doileys to go with it for the dresser I use. And Margaret and Ruth Elliott made me a nice new bed spread with blue border and motif in the middle. Perhaps now I will get curtains to match. I never have fixed my room here much. For one thing I did not think my sojourn here would be so long. But while my stay is still to be several more months according to the present plans the powers that be intend for me to return to Hunan sometime. The girls fixed a dining in my bed when they put the bed spread on. They used a pillow with safety pins on it for head. They got up a lovely supper. They had meat loaf, sweet potatoes, spinach with eggs on it, tomatoe salad, a pineapple desert, chocolate cake. They decorated the table with red crepe paper and yucca blossoms. They also had candles stuck on egg cups decorated with red paper. The favors which we gave to the compound children latter were made with chestnuts, matches, raisins, etc. These resembled cats and dogs. In the evening we had a game or two.

We did not play the whole day because we had callers in the afternoon and made two calls. Some teachers came to ask us to teach them English. For having me teach them an hour of English each week they will have to attend church. The other girls object to teaching these young men so that falls to my lot. One is not fond of doing this but it is almost the only point of contact with the young educated Chinese. Also Monday morning is usually full of tasks left over from Sunday. But I did get a little time to study.

Oct. 11. We go to the country for most of the day. We also spent all day Friday in the country. Where we go today the girls want to start a children's meeting to be held every week.

It is a full hours walk to get out there. One has to go ^{to} them. We saw one little old woman today who seems to believe but understands so little and no one in the home seems willing to help her.

The weather these days is ideal for going out so there is not so much time to write letters. Next week our teacher will be away at a conference. Today he told me he had to preach twice a month during the summer time and that it takes him three or four days to prepare. All the sympathy he got was to be told that a young man like he is should expect to be kept busy. I did tell him though it might be a good idea to find some one to take his Sunday school class. He has to be away about twice a month to take the Sunday service at the out-station and has to preach once a month at the ~~out~~ ^{main} station. The last time he went to the out-station he had a very good audience. It always takes all day to go for it is the best part of ten miles. If possible we like to have the one who goes stay over night to take an evening meeting.

I am sorry our church has no pastor now. It is about the same size in membership though as this one here and we get along without and some one has to go to the out-station for the service every week. Perhaps the people here are not so particular. I often think people at home are surfeited with good things. The coarsest kind of bread will satisfy the hunger of a starving man. But people there get to quarreling over cake and jam.

With love to all.

I want to thank you all for the things too,

Hazel.

Shucheng, Anhwei, China, Oct. 26, 1932.

Dear Mother:—

This has so far been one of the ordinary days. Two groups of women have been in to see the house. They were very much disappointed because I did not let them go up stairs to see everything there. The sooner we can get it through their heads we did not come here to show what we have with us off the better. I gave each of them a gospel and a tract to take home to have read to them. Very few if any of them can read. No one seems offended if asked if they can read. And I never get used to the way they yell out so every one can hear "I do not recognize characters." No one ever seems the least bit ashamed of not being able to read. One christian woman I like very much came in to see me this morning too. But most people come in either to look at things or have something done for them. Yesterday a woman came with a child with a very badly swollen face I think from an ulcerated tooth. It should be pulled a job I do not care to do. She seemed very much disappointed at being sent elsewhere.

One of the few times I have done something for an out sider lately was to attend to a scald on a child's stomach. It healed up very quickly. They gave me some gold fish, thirteen of them. That was over a month ago and I still have them. We keep them in a water "kang" that holds about three buckets of water. Eva wants them kept in the house. I do not object to that if she finds something to put them in.

One of the most suitable gifts we have received here was last spring when some one gave us a bunch of orchids. The ones they have in this district are fragrant but not pretty. They are light green with red spots. We have a few chrysanthemums almost ready to blossom. When we first came we could not buy any. Latter some one gave us a root. Latter some one started to sell potted plants here. These cost about six cents apiece so we bought six. When they have finished blossoming we intend to put the plants out in the garden and use the pots for something else.

Since my last letter two of the girls have been at the out-station. They sold a lot of gospels and gave out tracts. Otherwise there was no more than usual interest. They did not have as good Chinese help this time. Our teacher was away to conference. And the women we like best were either busy or ill. Considering this they got on well. It was Ruth Elliott's first trip to an out-station.

I hope to go again this week but have made very few preparations so far. One young woman who went with me last time has promised to go already. Some one else is not yet sure whether or not she can go. I will have to go and see tomorrow. I counted on our teacher being back to as he is supposed to take the Sunday service this next Sunday at the out-station. But one can not be sure of him he should be here by night. He and his cousin a deacon were appointed to go ^{as delegates to a conference.} Oct. 25. Our teacher came back today after I had found some one else to take the Sunday service at the out-station. When I told the cook who is also deacon I said I suppose now

the teacher will be back in time. But the cook said supposing he comes back we will not let him go to the out-station this week. He has to stay at the main station and take the big service to tell us what he heard at conference. The other delegate was to have had the church service. But he went to see his son before coming back. So it looks like it will turn out alright.

There has been a great change in the teacher's wife during recent weeks. Before she seemed to delight in the fact that she could not read very much to his annoyance. But lately she has begun to work as hard as she can to make up for lost time. It looks as though one hindrance after another to his doing definite work is being removed. For another thing she used to attend meetings more or less because she had to. But she begins to give the impression that she likes to come and she has begun to really listen. It makes a tremendous amount of difference to "men in China" too if he is in definite christian work whether his wife is determined to help or hinder.

We wanted to start meetings in the home of the adopted daughter of one of our missionaries. But things are unsettled there at present. Margaret and I did walk out to her home which is about five miles out last week. But she was away. Perhaps next week we can start. It will be rather an undertaking to walk to the same place every week for a meeting but I guess we can do it.

My scarf Gladys sent is lovely. It came just after my last letter was sent off. There is still a birthday parcel from Mrs. Draffin I have not received. Mr. Draffin was in Shanghai the last I heard probably planning.

to go home soon. That means I will not have a chance to go back to Hunan until next year this time.

A Chinese young woman is planning to come here for special meetings a month from now. I am very glad as there are so many outside women attending church just now who have never made and definite decision to become christians. Sometimes as last Sunday as many as forty women nearly half of those who came had never attended but a few times before.

At Kuling there was opportunity to buy Christmas presents. But whether I will send them or not depends on postage. It makes one cross to have them charge as much as the things cost.

With love to all,
Hazel Todd.

Hagile Todd,
China Inland Mission,
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

26,
Oct 32

Shucheng, Anhwei, China.

Nov. 9, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

It has been about two weeks again since my last letter the time does go by so fast. One does get so little done. Since my last letter I have spent another week at the out-stations. We had the best time we have had there yet. In the beginning of the work as many or more people came about. But most everyone came to see what we and our house and things were like. Now since their curiosity as to what they can see has been satisfied it is more likely that they come to hear the gospel. We were only three of us the first three days the teacher, his sister and myself. Then Margaret Elliott and one of the other christian women came to help. She has a baby eight months old so it is hard for her to get away. She does like to preach and women like to listen to her. At the time ~~co~~candidates for baptism were examined last we found that

at least two were brought in by Mrs. Wang. One thing I like about her preaching is that she always tells the women that they are to go and tell some one else what they have heard and they do it.

Mr. Hanna superintendent of the mission's work in this province was here in Shucheng last week. There are fifteen stations in this province. Four of them the work is more flourishing than it is here. And they are older work too. There are only two of all the stations where the work is newer. Mr. Hanna had some very nice things to say about the work especially about the way the Chinese cooperate with us. But that is all the Lord's goodness and the wonderful missionaries who went before me. When they first asked me to come here some one made the remark that it is one of the best stations in the province. I was not inclined to believe it then but it must be true. He spent four days

here and they had two deacon's
 meeting while he was here it was
 a busy time for me. We only came
 back from the out-station on Monday
 and it was my turn to take on the
 house keeping. We had to have seams
 run up on a cover for the mattress
 on the bed. I also made a batch of
 cookies. Also one forenoon was taken
 up with a deacon's meeting. Quite
 a lot was accomplished ~~while~~ ^{after} Mr.
 Hanna was here if I manage to push
 or drag them into doing all the
 things they agreed to do then. Only
 they are like any other men one
 dare not make them think they are
 not managing everything themselves.
 We had ~~the~~ two meetings one of which
 lasted over three hours. During that
 time four were examined for baptism.
 The one man was brought in through
 the work of the out-station. Three women
 also from here are from heathen

homes. I was interested to find that all four of them had made some attempt at witnessing in their own homes. There was another young woman baptized but she was so closely related to two of the deacons, ~~that they did not examine her.~~ Mr. Hanna suggests that I take a lot of time teaching her. She is a widow and her husband made her promise not to get married again. She seems to intend to keep the promise. So her time is free to work with us. She likes to study her Bible and she enjoys helping anywhere she can about the church.

As an illustration of how things go when a district superintendent comes it was agreed to meet once a ~~month~~ ^{week} and thoroughly revise the church register. They have met once and cut one man off from communion for a few months. The others are being given

a chance to redeem themselves in their eyes. I had to smile at one thing that happened in the last season's meeting. After the discussion of one point one of them said something about not saying anything to their wives about it. It was merely something they did not want every one to know about. They were also to form a constitution but it is going to take a lot of tact and perseverance on my part if it is done. And yet what Mr. Hanna was trying to do was to get the Chinese to handle things themselves.

Nov. 15. It seems I can not get things done. This morning I have sorted our tomatoes, changed the water on the gold fishes and ran a dozen times or more across the compound to see about the work on the wall. It has to be fixed twice a year because people punch holes in it and swipe

bricks. This week I have made catsup and mince meat, caned some tomatoes and still intend to make some green tomatoe pickles. One never seems to get too many things like that made. Margaret and Ruth Elliott will be leaving us in about ten days. But we may have a family living with us this winter. If so that means making more jam. The marmalade has not yet been done either. The mother of the family in question has not had a chance to study the language so the mission does not want her to keep house if she comes here.

This letter is a great jumble but must close.

With love,
Hazel Todd

Hazel Todd,
China Inland Missions,
Shucheng, Anhwei



Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Nov. 9

(32)

Shueheng, Anhwei, China, Dec. 13, 1932.

Dear Winifred:—

You will laugh when you hear what I am doing today. As I write two girls are sitting here having me teach them how to turn the heels in knitting socks. Fortunately I have a good book to refer to. I did knit a pair once myself. Today Eva and the teacher wrapped up some candy I made yesterday to send to the Draffin Children. Mr and Mrs. Draffin are home on furlough and the three older ones are in Chefoo. Also we washed our woollens and bossed the woman about fixed her ironing board. She likes it better now at any rate. The cook is making a kind of haw jam today. But I made a batch of cookies too. We are preparing for company as fast as we can in spare minutes.

Yesterday we did take time to go out to a place four or five miles out. We have been wanting to go for a more than a year. But one thing and another has hindered us (mostly rumors of brigands). Yesterday our teacher, the wife of one of our deacons and a young widow went with us. There was also a cooke to carry our things for we took six hundred and eighty gospels and more than a thousand tracts. And we came back without these things. We loitered by the way selling gospels etc so it took us over three hours to get there. So we did not arrive there until nearly noon. We started back about three. It gets dark so early I did not think it wise to stay later. They seemed to think I made a good guess on how much of everything to take. We all enjoyed ourselves in spite of the fact we nearly froze our fingers. Of course I might have taken my gloves. But the Chinese who went with me have none so I am not sorry about not wearing mine. In the afternoon we had a good Chinese meal with the others but we were ready for a good supper when we came home. In the evening after prayers I made three kinds of candy. They all turned out well too although it might be you or Isabelle might have done better. It is best for me to do such things in the evening when I am not so apt to be disturbed.

Margaret and Ruth Elliott left week. I had been at Taoheng for the week end. We did not get a great deal done because of the weather. But we did make a kick about the tiles that needed fixing and the

door that needed to be put back in place. The day I attended to this also had charcoal bought and windows pasted up was warmer than usual. But folks saw the reason for having it done the next day which was Sunday. Of course it would not have sothered them as much as it should to even have bought things on Sunday. Tuesday was deacon's meeting and it lasted most of the forenoon. There was just time to make cookies before dinner. Then in the afternoon two women came in to be taught. The whole week went like that. The girls left Thursday morning. We went with them a couple of miles. I had made cookies, ^{catchup} and pickles besides having the cook bake fresh bread and make peanut butter for them. But with having to train in a new cook they may wish they had more of everything.

Last week one of the church members went to meet a Chinese lady we are expecting to have come to conduct meetings. The earliest possible time they can get here is day after tomorrow. We hope she will not be latter in coming and that she can stay for Christmas.

We expect Mr. Costerus of the next mission station to be here for Christmas. Mrs. Costerus wrote she thought he would come by then. She will not be here with the younger children for more than a month after that. As they do not want to pay the expense of the older two coming up and going back to Shanghai she does not wonder she wants to wait a while. They liked this compound very much. You see there is plenty of room for children to play and this is a quiet part of the town. Of course this is not ideal for the work. They seemed to like our servants too and possibly even us. I am not very well acquainted myself. When they were here before we had an agreement that two were on kitchen duty and two to relieve Mrs. Costerus as far as possible of the care of the children. My lot fell to the kitchen. It usually does except that the last time when the superintendent was here they kept me busy in meetings. You may think me a dreadful boss but sometimes when it

comes to having so many folks to look after I wish I could do it better. When I have to keep house for a family it will be worse yet. You can just feel sorry for them.

We are having a portion of the wall done this week to make our part of the compound more private. It has been needing to be done for years. One of our deacons while a way saw a number of compounds closed to the public. He said he did not like it but the idea struck him was that this compound is like that. This portion of the wall will make it more possible to give people access to the rest of the compound.

Today a parcel came from Mrs Draffin containing a pair of part wool blankets, three small bath towels and a middie blouse. They really were for my birthday but came late. The blankets are green and white also two of the towels are green.

I della has already written about sending two parcels for Christmas. I became acquainted with her the year I was back at B. I. Next year she may come to China. She is always sending little things that take time and thought like stories from magazines. One year for Christmas she sent some table decorations and some small candies for cakes. They decorated about four birthday cakes. She sends me old copies of "The King's Business", "Reader's Digest" and "Revelations".

By the way I sent the address of Margaret's and Ruth's folks but they are now on the way back to China. They will be spending the summer together at Kuling. if their plans carry out. But their youngest brother is still at B. I.

Until now we have not had a Christian Endeavor society in this church. But we hope to start one soon.

One reason for delay has been that I have been waiting until more of the people see the need of it for themselves. We hope now it will be started soon.

Dec. 17 This letter must be off. As there are so many other things to do helping with decorations for Christmas, sending cards and

getting things ready for folks to eat. Today I made the
Christmas pudding so that at least is done.

With love to ~~all~~ of you,

Hazel Todd.

Wagel Todd,
China Inland Mission,
Kweichow, Anshui, China

航空信最快捷

加快更速



Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U.S.A.

Dec. 13, 1932



Shucheng, Anhwei China

Dec. 29, 1902.

Dear Mother:-

It is more than time this letter was on its way. But special meetings while they are fine do throw the routine out of gear. From the Sunday before Christmas until then we had meetings twice a day. We had to entertain the lady who came to do the speaking and so it was up to me to plan the three meals a day. During the meetings I had to do most of the ushering on the women's side. The lady came a few days before the meetings and staid a few days afterwards so was here in all two weeks. Fortunately she liked this place. The people appreciated her very much and the crowd must have almost for the whole time averaged about a hundred. I was surprised on how well the people came out and more so in the interest they took. It was much less trouble than usual to keep things quiet. The church is paying for the traveling expenses for the Chinese lady to come. These were rather heavy because we are such a distance away from every other place.

We had a busy but happy Christmas day. Having the special meetings one in the forenoon and ~~one~~ in the afternoon that took up most of the day. While we ate dinner peanuts were given out. But many who staid through were singing choruses they had learned during the meetings. If the weather had been fine the church would have hardly held the crowd. As it was we must have had about two hundred out. But in the afternoon we only had about sixty present. It was because of rain. It did me good to see some out that last day or two who had not been to church for years. Also some who have been merely interested have seemed to make a definite decision. It seems even harder to go by

what people say than it is at home. It is so easy for some to talk and others so much deeper say so little. At any rate I know many got a blessing from the meetings.

* For eat on Christmas day I had made the Christmas pudding and the fudge etc. before Miss Chiang came. For the Christmas dinner at noon we had chicken with chestnut dressing, baked squash, stewed tomatoes (from our garden) and mashed potatoes also the Christmas pudding. In the evening we had cream tomato soup which Eva commented on as being like Christmas for we had put in some parsley. We also had angel food cake, spice cake and fruit salad. Miss Chiang had been upset by some of the things she ate before she came as well as some of the traveling. Besides I did not have a lot of time to prepare things but the angel food cake and its icing turned out well especially considering how rushed I was. Usually when a foreigner comes to take meetings here the Chinese give them a feast. But this time with a Chinese lady they did not give her a month's full of food while she was here. She comes of a wealthy official family. Perhaps they were afraid that they would not have it nice enough. She thanked me though for having emphasized that we were to give her food instead of them because we are apt to have our food cooked so that it is more digestible.

Dec. 30. Last week we received a letter from one of our missionaries just returned from furlough then in Shanghai. He said he wanted to get here to ask the Roman Catholic priest here about one of the missionaries who was taken captive about a hundred miles from here several months ago. I told our personal teacher about this and he did not waste any time about going to ask about this himself. The R. C. priest was very much surprised to see him and said that three days before he knew no more than we do. But he had received a letter telling

that some people had seen one of these priests and a protestant missionary in a certain temple and had latter seen them being taken in a certain direction on the big road. The R. C. priest was going to investigate further. We wrote at once about this to two different people one of these being a special delivery letter but so far we have had no response. Perhaps tomorrow news will all come in a heap. We hope if Mr. Ferguson is still in the flesh that he will be released soon as he is an old man.

I spent nearly the whole day making out an order for gospel and tracts. The teacher spent the forenoon going through what we already have with me and in putting a cupboard straight. There is some method in my madness for he did not save much time. I want him to become more familiar with our books and tracts as he may have to look after and order these things himself some time as we missionaries are not always at hand. He seems at last to have made up his mind to do definite christian work but has not yet made up his mind about what training to take. We are not keeping him on after September as we can not afford it and we want ~~to~~ him not to feel too much that we need him around here. I did make a sponge cake and iced it too. If we not expecting company that would not have been necessary. Some one also brought a beggar in to see me today and she staid about an hour. I wanted to make some calls on women who became interested during the meetings but had no time to do so. But some one else did see them today. Perhaps I can go myself tomorrow.

This is the beginning of the Twelfth Chinese month when they are busy preparing for the new year. Of course they are supposed to be keeping the ~~florian~~ new year instead but old superstitions die hard.

During the meetings two of the girls were here from the out-station.

We wanted their mothers to come but they were busy. One has a new grand child and wanted to look after her daughter and the new baby. The other wanted to look after her brother's baby who has no mother. But Miss Chiang pointed out families like the ones those girls came from would not permit them to go away from home unless they have a lot of confidence in the ones to whom they go. The girls listened carefully and got a lot while they were here. One confided in me she knew she ought to pray every day but sometimes she forgets. Then she went on to say she did not know what to say about asking the blessing. It is a good sign when they begin thinking along these lines. A little over a year ago they knew nothing about the gospel. They copied the choruses that were sang during the meetings so they can take them home.

Two weeks ago an old man who lives in one of the groups of houses where we hold meetings died calling on the Lord to save him. This is one of the results of our work that one can not put down on any books. But much of one's work is like that. Our reports merely give the number of baptisms.

I received a nice long letter from Gladys many days ago. But I am waiting until the Christmas parcel comes before answering it. A lot of parcels of gospels coming just now seem to be holding up our Christmas mail. Mrs. Canfield sent me a book and the parcels from I della came. I della sent thumb tacks, paper fasteners and a lot of other things that come in handy and yet one can not so easily buy here. Mrs. Canfield also wrote a good long letter.

Thank you for the picture rolls. They are such a handy size to take out to use. Some of those you sent in the spring were framed.

This will be my last long letter this year probably. And it must be sent off.

With love to all of you,
Hazel Todd.